



Executive Office

Granger MacDonald
2017 Chairman of the Board

August 29, 2017

Secretary Ryan Zinke
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders, I would like to ask the Department of the Interior to help increase the production of softwood lumber on domestic federal land.

As you know, the Department of Commerce has imposed two duties on Canadian softwood lumber imports. These tariffs will have a deleterious impact on the availability and supply of lumber, which in turn will harm home production and housing affordability. NAHB is discussing these consequences with the Department of Commerce, and we are encouraged by Secretary Ross's decision to delay the final determinations.

It is nevertheless important to identify other sources of softwood lumber, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. We expect demand for softwood lumber to increase dramatically as home builders and remodelers repair and replace housing in Houston and across Texas and Louisiana.

One solution is to increase production on federal land in an environmentally sustainable way. This will contribute to a reliable, consistently priced supply of lumber. It has the additional benefit of creating jobs and strengthening the economies of small towns throughout the nation.

I encourage you to coordinate with the Department of Agriculture in the effort to open up federal land for lumber production. These actions will help strengthen our industry, keep housing affordable and boost local economies.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Granger MacDonald", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Granger MacDonald
2017 NAHB Chairman